

A NEW CYNIPID FROM ARIZONA.

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(PLATE II.)

Aulax chrysothamni, new species.

Male and Female. — Head rufous, vertex piceous in the female, wholly black in the male, very finely and minutely punctate. Antennæ rufous in the female, piceous in the male. Thorax black, very minutely and evenly punctate, subopaque; parasidal grooves obliterated anteriorly, very fine posteriorly and convergent at the scutellum. Anterior lines from the collar very indistinct and scarcely reaching the middle of the thorax. Median groove from the scutellum wanting. Pleuræ finely striate. Scutellum black, rugose, with two pit-like depressions at the base. Abdomen black in both sexes. Legs rufous. Wings hyaline, with dark brown veins. Length of male 1.50 mm.; of the female 2 to 2.50 mm.

Gall. — Polythalamous. White, densely covered with white felt-like substance. Elongated, rounded or club-shaped, enlargements of the terminal twigs of the branches of a species of *Chrysothamnus* (*Bigelovia*), measuring from 15 to 30 mm. in length and 12 to 20 mm. in diameter. Sometimes two or three galls are in a row on the same branch. Internally the gall is white and of a pithy substance.

Habitat. — Tucson, Arizona (Gneomar von Krockow).

IS MUTATION A FACTOR IN THE PRODUCTION
OF VESTIGIAL WINGS AMONG INSECTS?*

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The application by zoölogists of experimental methods to the investigation of the varied problems of evolution has become so general during the past few years, that entomologists have almost entirely neglected to search in any other way for facts bearing on the mutation theory of De Vries.

The wealth of insect species and the constancy of their specific characters render them more available for non-experimental work of this sort than probably any other group of living organisms.

It is with the hope of calling attention to this interesting field that I have been tempted to present the following scattered observations on

*A paper read at the meeting of the Entomological Society of America at Chicago, December 30, 1907.